

# **Iraq Weekly Status Report**

**March 5, 2008**

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
US Department of State**



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## HIGHLIGHTS

- An Iraqi court dropped charges against two former Ministry of Health officials accused of using their positions to allow sectarian killings. **(POLITICAL, page 3)**
- The number of Iraqi refugees admitted to the U.S. rose in the month of February. **(POLITICAL, page 3)**
- Turkey withdrew its troops from northern Iraq February 29, claiming they had achieved their goal of driving PKK forces away from mountains on their border. **(SECURITY, page 10)**
- The U.S.-Iraq Dialogue on Economic Cooperation (DEC) was held in Baghdad February 27-28. **(ECONOMIC, page 13)**
- Minister of Oil Shahrastani announced that Iraq is close to completing two-year technical service agreements with several major oil companies. **(ECONOMIC, page 15)**
- Iranian President Ahmadinejad signed 7 MoUs, including a \$1 billion loan for work to be awarded to Iranian companies in an effort to strengthen ties with Iraq during his recent visit to the country. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 25)**
- BBC Arabic TV is scheduled to begin 12 hour a day broadcasting of news and event programs to the Middle East and North Africa March 11. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 25)**



## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

### Charges against Ministry of Health Officials Dropped:

- An Iraqi court on March 3rd dropped the charges against two former Iraqi Ministry of Health officials accused of using their positions to allow sectarian killings during the wave of violence after the bombing of a Shiite shrine two years ago. A three-judge panel found insufficient evidence to proceed with the cases against Hakim al-Zamili, a former deputy health minister, and Brigadier General Hamid al-Shammari, who headed the ministry's security forces, on charges of kidnapping, murder and corruption. U.S. Embassy spokesman Philip Reeker confirmed the charges were dropped against the two officials and noted "serious allegations of witness intimidation and other irregularities" during the two-day trial. The trial was seen as a test of the commitment by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki to crack down on Sunni and Shiite extremists alike. The Sadrist Trend (Muqtada al-Sadr's political party) has demanded that the U.S. military release the two men since terrorism charges have been dropped.

### U.S. Accepting More Iraqi Refugees:

- The U.S. admitted 444 Iraqi refugees in February, according to preliminary figures released March 1. This number represents an increase over the 375 admitted in January, but remains below the pace needed to meet the FY 2008 target of 12,000. Amb. James Foley, the U.S. State Department's Senior Coordinator for Iraqi Refugees, said February's figures brought the number of Iraqi refugees admitted to the U.S. to 1,876 since the U.S. government's 2008 fiscal year began October 1, 2007. The U.S. aims to double the number of interviews in the second quarter, and to increase it further in the third quarter, he said. "So we are on a trajectory to meet our target of 12,000," he said, referring to the objective set for the current fiscal year, which ends September 30.



## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

### Iraqis Begin Processing Amnesty Applications:

- Up to 200 Iraqis appeared at the Baghdad Karkh courthouse (adjacent to, and accessible through, the International Zone) March 2 to pick up amnesty claim forms. Sunday, March 2, the first day of the Iraqi work week, was the first day that the Higher Judicial Council began implementing the general amnesty statute which took effect the previous week. The law allows for amnesty releases for Iraqi government detainees who are not charged with certain serious crimes, such as murder and kidnapping.

### Execution of 'Chemical Ali' Approved:

- On February 29 the Iraqi Presidency Council approved the execution of Ali Hassan al-Majid, a former official in the Saddam Hussein government who is known as "Chemical Ali," for ordering gas attacks on Kurds in the 1980s. Majid was sentenced to death for genocide in June 2007 along with Sultan Hashim al-Tai, another former defense minister, and Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti, former armed forces deputy chief of operations. They were convicted of the killing of tens of thousands of Kurds in the so-called Anfal campaign of 1988. AFP reports that no date of execution has yet been set. The three are currently in American military custody.



## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

### Maliki Addresses Large Crowd on Shiite Holiday:

- Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki delivered a speech February 28 in which he declared that national reconciliation was moving forward despite the recent Presidency Council veto of legislation that would have established the relationship between the national government and Iraq's provinces. Maliki, speaking during the celebration of Arbaeen, which marks the seventh century slaying of Imam Hussein, stated that "national reconciliation efforts have succeeded in Iraq and the Iraqis have once again become loving brothers....We have ended the security instability and we have to chase al-Qaida elements in other places such as Mosul, Diyala and Kirkuk in order to finish the battle for good so that we can concentrate on the reconstruction phase." Maliki acknowledged the need to move forward on political, security, and economic fronts. "We should be united and keep away from personal interests in order to face the greater challenges and achieve final victory," he stated.

### Maliki Calls for Swift Action on Archbishop's Kidnapping:

- PM Maliki issued an order to the Interior Ministry and security officials in Ninewah province to work hard to secure the quick release of Archbishop Faraj Rahu, who was kidnapped in Mosul on February 29. Maliki's March 4 statement noted that "any assault on the Christians is an assault on all Iraqis." Pope Benedict XVI and the European Union have also appealed for the archbishop's release.



## POLITICAL - Provincial

### Sons of Iraq Resume Patrols in Diyala:

- Sons of Iraq units in Diyala agreed to return to work March 1 after a three-week strike. Hundreds of the mainly Sunni Muslim guards had been on strike in Diyala over pay and other issues. The Sons of Iraq neighborhood watch groups have been a key element in the sharp drop in violence across Iraq since last summer. The strike had threatened to undermine efforts to bring stability to ethnically and religiously mixed Diyala, one of four Northern provinces in which officials say al-Qaida has regrouped after being forced from strongholds in Iraq's west and around Baghdad. Officials say there has been a 63% drop in violence in Diyala since June, when U.S. and Iraqi forces launched an offensive against Al-Qaida in Iraq elements in the province; violence in the province was reported not to have increased during the Sons of Iraq strike.

### PRT Kirkuk: Major Crimes Court Resumes Trying Terrorist and Other Felony Cases:

- The Kirkuk Major Crimes Court (MCC) resumed operations February 28, hearing a docket of 42 cases. Created in October 2007, the MCC has tried 26 cases and cleared a two-year backlog of major crimes cases, including terrorism-related cases. Previously, cases were tried by a group of three traveling judges out of the Central Criminal Court of Iraq (CCC-I) in Baghdad. For this second session, the Kirkuk MCC was fully staffed by three local judges, one prosecutor, and one public defender.



# POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

Coalition Affiliation (at time of appointment)
United Iraq Alliance
Kurdistani Alliance
Iraqi Accord Front
Iraqi National List
Other / Independent

(F) = Female

\*Formerly Tawafuq

\*\*Formerly Sadrist/UIA

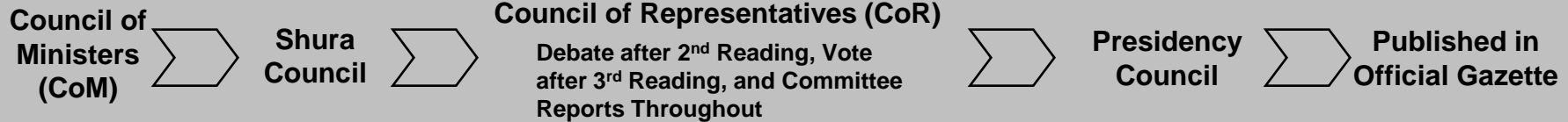
\*\*\*Formerly Iraqiya

**Prime Minister**
**Nuri al-Maliki**
**Deputy Prime Minister**
**\* Vacant**
**Deputy Prime Minister**
**Barham Salih**
**President**
**Jalal Talabani**
**Deputy President**
**Tariq al-Hashimi**
**Deputy President**
**‘Adil ‘Abd al-Mahdi**
**Minister of Agriculture**
**Ali al-Bahadeli**
**Minister of Communications**
**\*\*\* Vacant**
**Minister of Culture**
**\* Vacant**
**Minister of Defense**
**Abdul Qadir Muhammed  
Jasim al-Mufraji**
**Minister of Displacement  
& Migration**
**Abd al-Samad Rahman  
Sultan**
**Minister of Electricity**
**Karim Wahid**
**Minister of Education**
**Khudayyir al-Khuza'i**
**Minister of Environment**
**Narmin ‘Uthman (F)**
**Minister of Finance**
**Bayan Jabr**
**Minister of Foreign Affairs**
**Hoshiyar Zebari**
**Minister of Health**
**Saleh al-Hasnawi**
**Minister of Higher Education**
**\* Vacant**
**Minister of Human Rights**
**Wijdan Mikha'il (F)**
**Minister of Industry  
& Minerals**
**Fawzi al-Hariri**
**Minister of Interior**
**Jawad al-Bulani**
**Minister of Justice**
**\*\*\* (Safa al Safi  
acting)**
**Minister of Housing &  
Construction**
**Bayan Daza'I (F)**
**Minister of Labor &  
Social Affairs**
**Mahmud Muhammad  
Jawad al-Radi**
**Minister of Oil**
**Husayn al-Shahristani**
**Minister of Planning**
**Ali Baban**
**Minister of Trade**
**Abd al-Falah al-Sudani**
**Minister of Science &  
Technology**
**Ra'id Fahmi Jahid**
**Minister of Municipalities  
& Public Works**
**Riyad Ghurayyib**
**Minister of Transportation**
**\*\* Vacant**
**Minister of Water Resources**
**‘Abd al-Latif Rashid**
**Minister of Youth &  
Sports**
**Jasim Muhammad Ja'far**
**Minister of State for  
Civil Society**
**\* (Wijdan Mikha'il  
Acting) (F)**
**Minister of State for  
National Dialogue Affairs**
**Akram al-Hakim**
**Minister of State for National  
Security Affairs**
**Shirwan al-Waili**
**Minister of State for  
Foreign Affairs**
**\* Vacant**
**Minister of State for  
Governorates Affairs**
**Sa'd Hashim**
**Minister of State for  
Tourism and Antiquities**
**\*\* Vacant**
**Minister of State for  
Women's Affairs**
**\*\* (Narmeen Othman Acting)**
**Minister of State for CoR  
Affairs**
**Safa al-Safi**



# POLITICAL – Key Legislation and Refugee Update

## Legislative Process



Provincial Powers	CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was vetoed by the Presidency Council February 26.
Elections	The Prime Minister's Office is currently drafting the law, which will set the legal basis and structure of provincial and national elections.
Hydrocarbons Package	The level of control allocated to the central government in the July 2007 draft version of the Framework Law (currently in CoR Committee) is the key point of disagreement; there may be more progress on the Revenue Management Law, currently with the Shura Council, in the coming months.
Amnesty Law	<b>PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was signed by the Presidency Council February 26.</b>
Pensions Amendment	<b>PASSED: Published in the Official Gazette December 2007.</b>
De-Ba'athification Reform	<b>PASSED: Approved by default by the Presidency Council February 2008. Must still be published in the Official Gazette.</b>

## Refugee Update

Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million

Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.2-2.4 million

Total number of Iraqi refugees admitted to the U.S. during to date in FY07-FY08: 3,222



## SECURITY - Situation Update

### Turkey Withdraws Troops from Northern Iraq:

- Turkey ended its week-long incursion into northern Iraq February 29, withdrawing troops after reporting it had achieved its aims of rooting out PKK terrorists from the mountains along the Iraq-Turkey border. Turkish authorities stated that the decision was independent of a request by Defense Secretary Robert Gates that Turkey end its incursion into Iraq quickly. Iraqi officials welcomed the departure of Turkish troops.

### Security Said to Have Improved in Iskandariyah, Najaf, Karbala, Hillah:

- U.S. Army Col. Tom James, whose 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team stationed near Iskandariyah is responsible for security in Najaf, Karbala, and Hillah, commented February 22 on the stable security situation in that region and his expectation of continued stability in the future. James attributed the decreased violence to three factors: the effect of the surge; improved Iraqi Security Forces capabilities; and the impact of the Sons of Iraq.



## SECURITY – Security Transition

### Facilities Protection Service Graduates First Class:

- The Facilities Protection Service (FPS) in Baghdad graduated its first class of 103 students March 2. The program is part of ongoing professional training for FPS guards in Iraq. FPS guards protect Iraq's essential government facilities and infrastructure. The training course includes instruction in human rights, guard duties, communication, marksmanship, Iraqi law, writing reports, and patrolling.

### Rule of Law Training Expanded for Iraqi Judges:

- A pilot training program for Iraqi judges by the UN, U.S. State Department, and 3rd Infantry Division was so well received that it has been expanded to include 40 more Iraqi judges. The initial training program equipped 250 judges with laptops. The training familiarizes Iraqi judges with a software program containing 90 years of Iraqi legal code stored on laptops, which are distributed to individual judges. The software gives judges a baseline of legal code and precedence from which to work. The new tool will help judges process the country's backlog of cases, as well as address new cases as they arise.

### Japan Donates 600 Motorcycles to Iraqi Police:

- Japan's Ambassador to Iraq, Kenjori Monji, joined Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al-Bulani at a ceremony to present 600 motorcycles to the Iraqi Police February 28. The motorcycles were donated to Iraq by the Government of Japan as a part of its effort to help in Iraq's reconstruction. Japan has provided humanitarian and reconstruction assistance to Iraq with over \$5 billion in aid, as well as support from the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. These motorcycles now allow the Iraqi Police to move more freely and quickly through the congested streets of Baghdad and outlying areas.



# SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of January 1, 2008 <sup>a</sup>			
Component	Current Authorized Personnel <sup>b</sup>	Assigned Personnel <sup>c</sup>	Total Trained Personnel to date <sup>d</sup>
<b>Ministry of Interior (MoI) Forces <sup>e</sup></b>			
Iraqi Police Service <sup>f</sup>	288,001	275,300	155,248
National Police <sup>g</sup>	33,670	32,389	41,399
Border Enforcement	38,205	39,649	27,959
<b>Total MoI</b>	<b>359,876</b>	<b>347,338</b>	<b>224,606</b>
<b>Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces <sup>h</sup></b>			
Army	186,352	159,938	174,940
Support Forces	17,369	18,794	19,750
Air Force	2,907	1,305	1,370
Navy	1,483	1,115	1,194
<b>Total MoD</b>	<b>208,111</b>	<b>181,152</b>	<b>197,254</b>
<b>Counter Terrorism Bureau</b>			
Special Operations	4,857	3,126	3,485
<b>Total Iraqi Security Forces</b>	<b>572,844</b>	<b>531,616</b>	<b>425,345</b>

a Numbers do not include ministry staffs.

b Numbers reflect Government of Iraq (GOI) authorizations.

c Numbers are based upon GOI payroll data and do not reflect present for duty totals.

d Numbers reflect assigned personnel that have received training.

e Numbers reflect total ISF personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.

f MoI strength does not reflect investigative and administrative forces, the MoI HQ, MoI Forensics, Dignitary Protection, or contracted guards.

g MoI Police Support Unit, Provincial Security Force, and Emergency Response Unit personnel are part of the Iraqi Police Service and does not include other Ministry FPS.

h The MoD strength are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).



## ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

### Dialogue on Economic Cooperation:

- Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih, U.S. Under Secretary of the Treasury David McCormick, and Under Secretary of State Reuben Jeffery III led the U.S.-Iraq Dialogue on Economic Cooperation (DEC) in Baghdad February 27-28. Participants discussed the bilateral economic relationship and strategies for continuing to improve Iraq's economy. U.S. officials said that the Government of Iraq made significant progress in building its economy. Meanwhile, officials from the European Union also held trade talks in Iraq. According to an EU statement: "The agreement comes as part of the EU's plan to support and assist Iraq in establishing development and political stability and its efforts towards reconstruction, and to achieve an EU-Iraq economic fusion."

### Etisalat to Offer Service in Iraq:

- The telecom company Etisalat plans to offer service in the area of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). CEO Mohammad al-Qemzi stated: "We are now looking at a joint venture with an existing license holder. We are just waiting for final agreement to get the deal done." Etisalat has not revealed the name of the existing license holder. Etisalat will be competing with Atheer and Asia Cell for customers.



## ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

### Electricity Workers See Results from Sit-in:

- Last week workers at the Nasiriyah power station staged a sit-in, and the Minister of Electricity has agreed to discuss their concerns. The Union of Engineering Technicians of the Federation of Workers' Council and Union in Iraq staged the demonstration in Nasiriyah and at other locations including Basra, Hilla, Musayab, and Kut. There is no word on when these discussions will take place. The disgruntled workers want the Ministry of Electricity to give more support to actual plant operations and allow more Iraqi companies to fix the country's electrical infrastructure. Minister of Electricity Karim Hasan stated that an anti-corruption program had been started and he wanted Iraqi companies to rebuild the power grid instead of just rehabilitating it.

### Northern Iraq to Receive Dana Gas:

- Dana Gas will begin supplying gas in the area of the Kurdistan Regional Government upon completion of a power station there. Dana Gas, a UAE-based company, will start in mid-2008, six months behind schedule. The company estimates its total investment in the project at \$650 million. The estimate covers two phases of work in which Dana expects to increase the gas field's capacity to 300 million cubic feet per day by 2009. Previous production sharing agreements have been deemed illegal by the Iraqi Ministry of Oil. The deal with Dana Gas is not a production sharing agreement but a service contract. According to the company this investment represents the largest single private sector investment in Iraq in four years.



## ECONOMIC – Oil

### Crude Oil Update:

*Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:*

Basrah Light at \$94.16/ barrel

Dated Brent at \$99.40/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$100.886/ barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$93.536/barrel

*Revenue estimates:*

2006: \$31.3 Billion

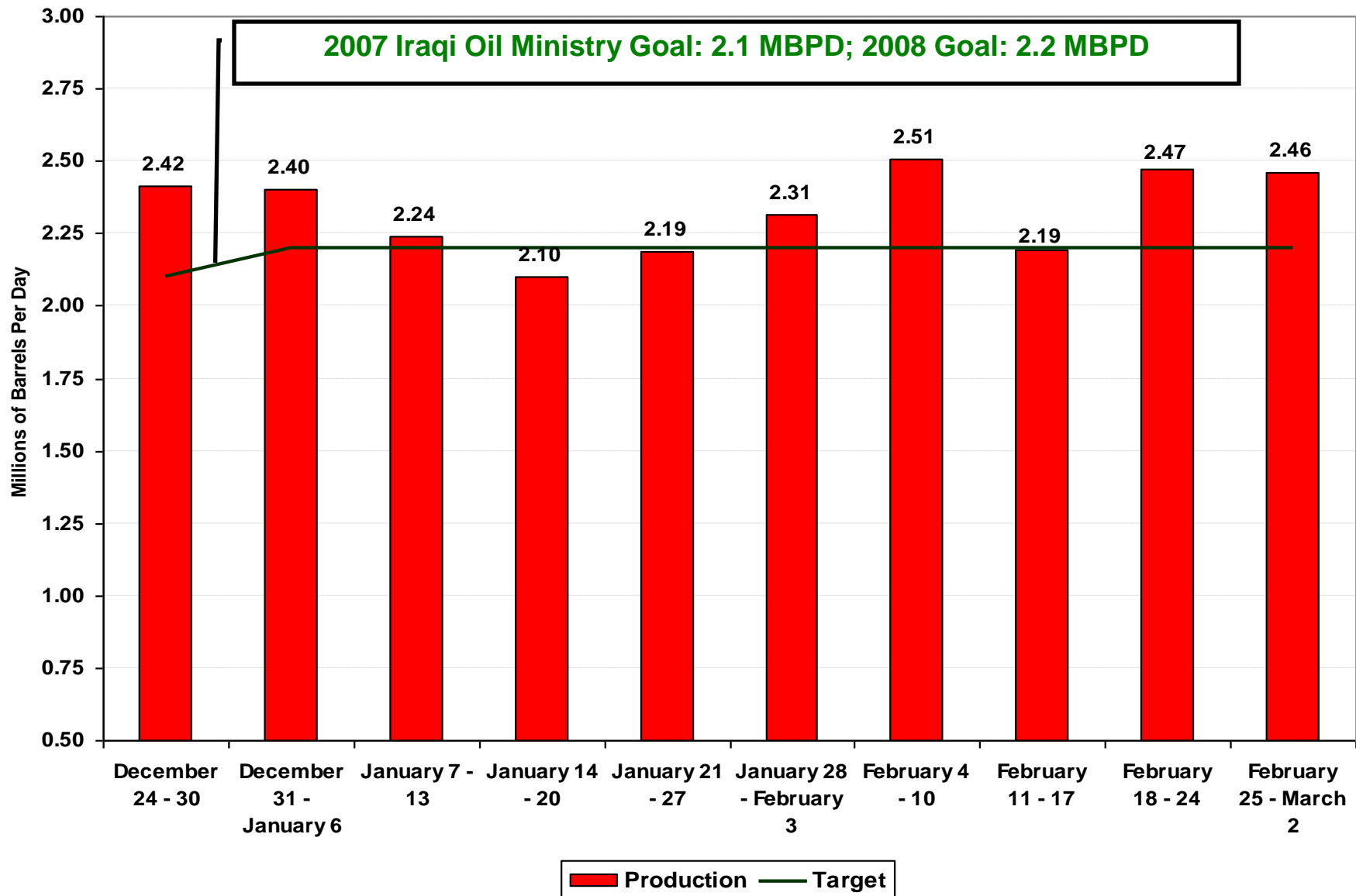
2007: \$41.0 Billion (estimated)

### GOI Moves Closer to Oil Deals:

- Iraqi Minister of Oil Hussain al-Shahristani said that 115 companies have registered to compete for contracts for work in Iraq's hydrocarbon sector. This represents a significant increase from the Ministry of Oil's original estimate of 70. Shahristani went further to say that Iraq is close to completing deals with several major oil companies for two-year technical support agreements. "We are negotiating with these five companies [Royal Dutch Shell, BP, Exxon Mobil Corp, Total, and Chevron]. We are at the end of negotiations," Shahristani said.

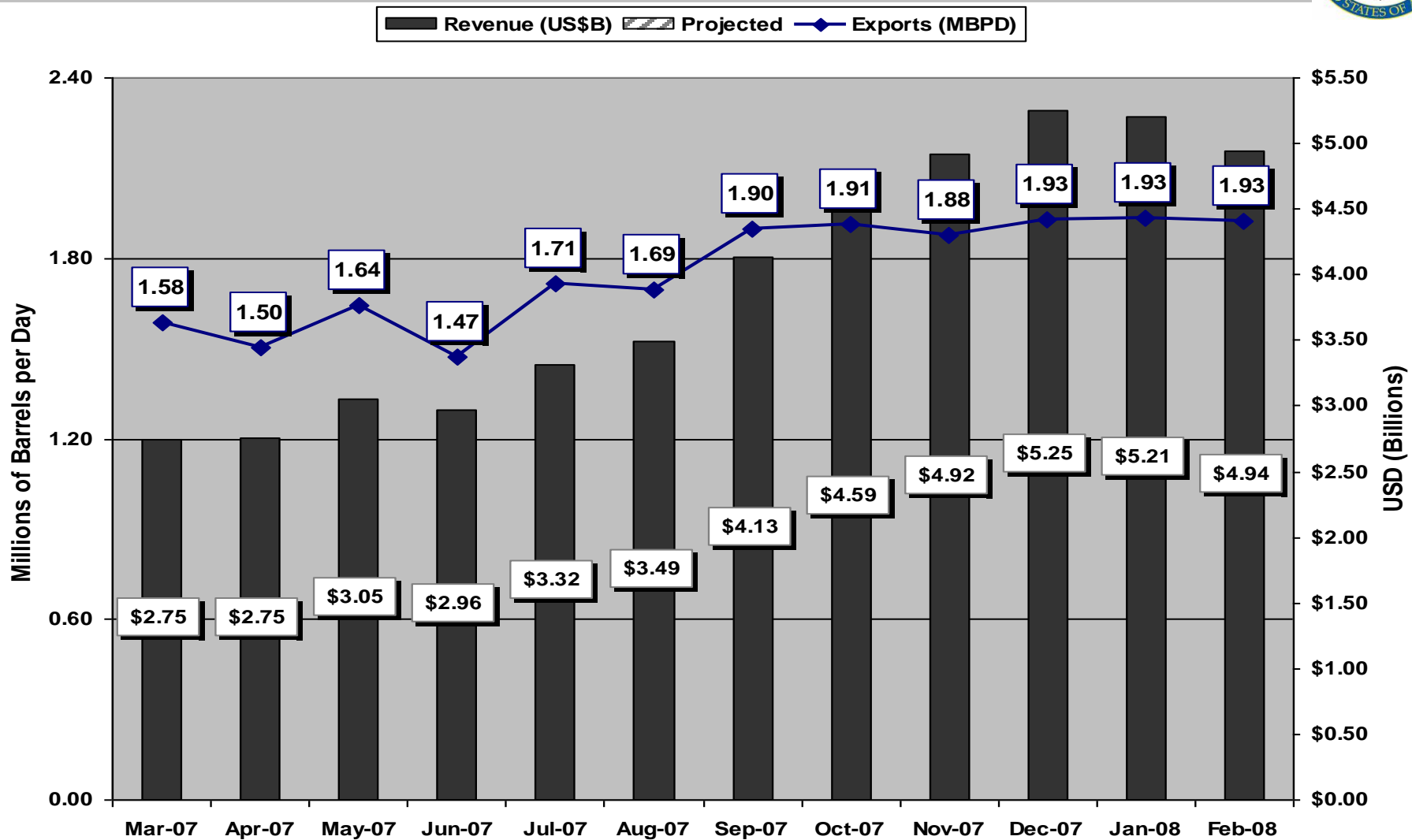


## ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production





# ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export



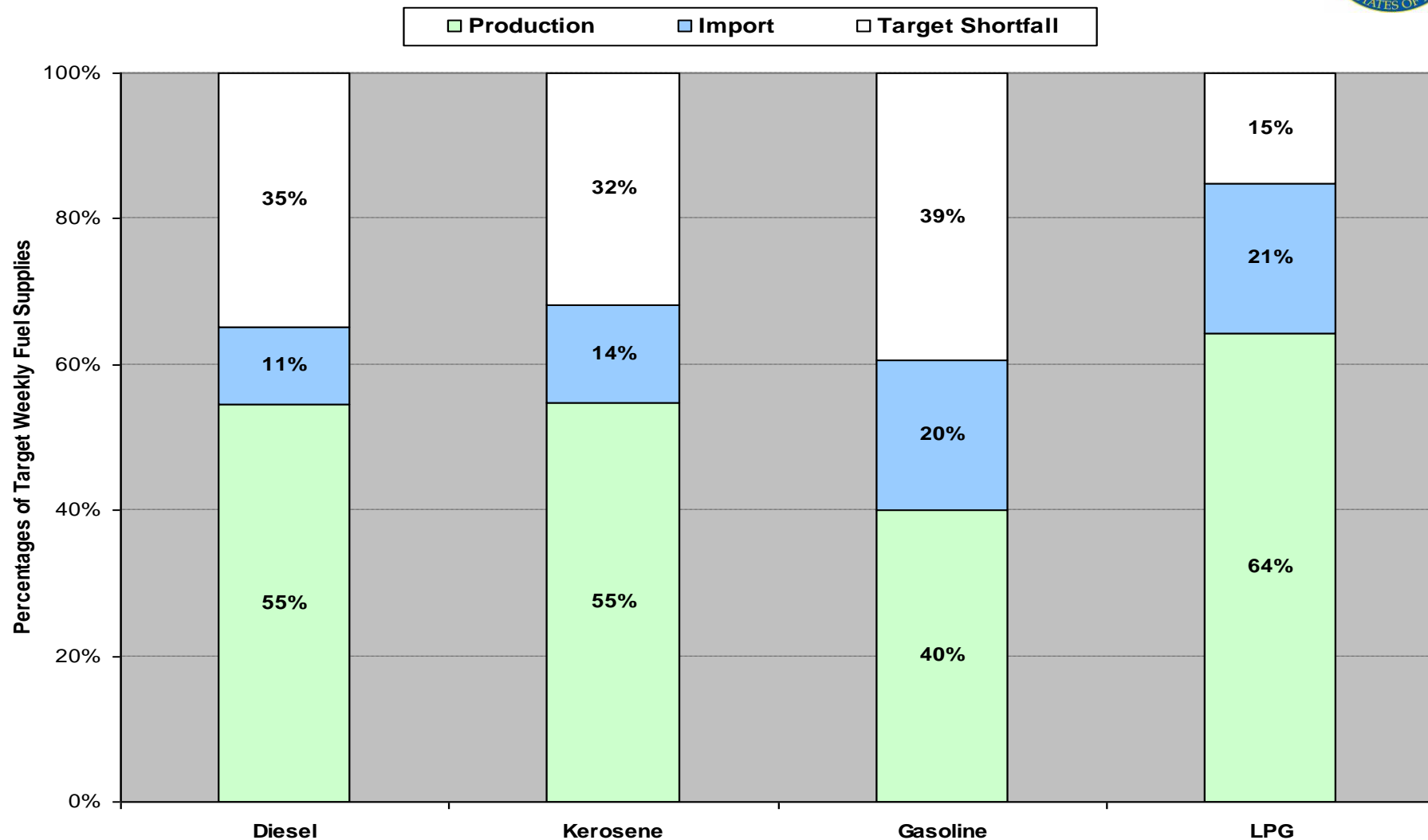
• 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion

2008 Revenue Estimate: \$10.1 Billion (ytd)

• 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$41.0 Billion



# ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies



Note: This is a daily average for February 25 – March 2

- Diesel: 16.0 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 10.0 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 16.2 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 4,325 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



## ECONOMIC – Healthcare

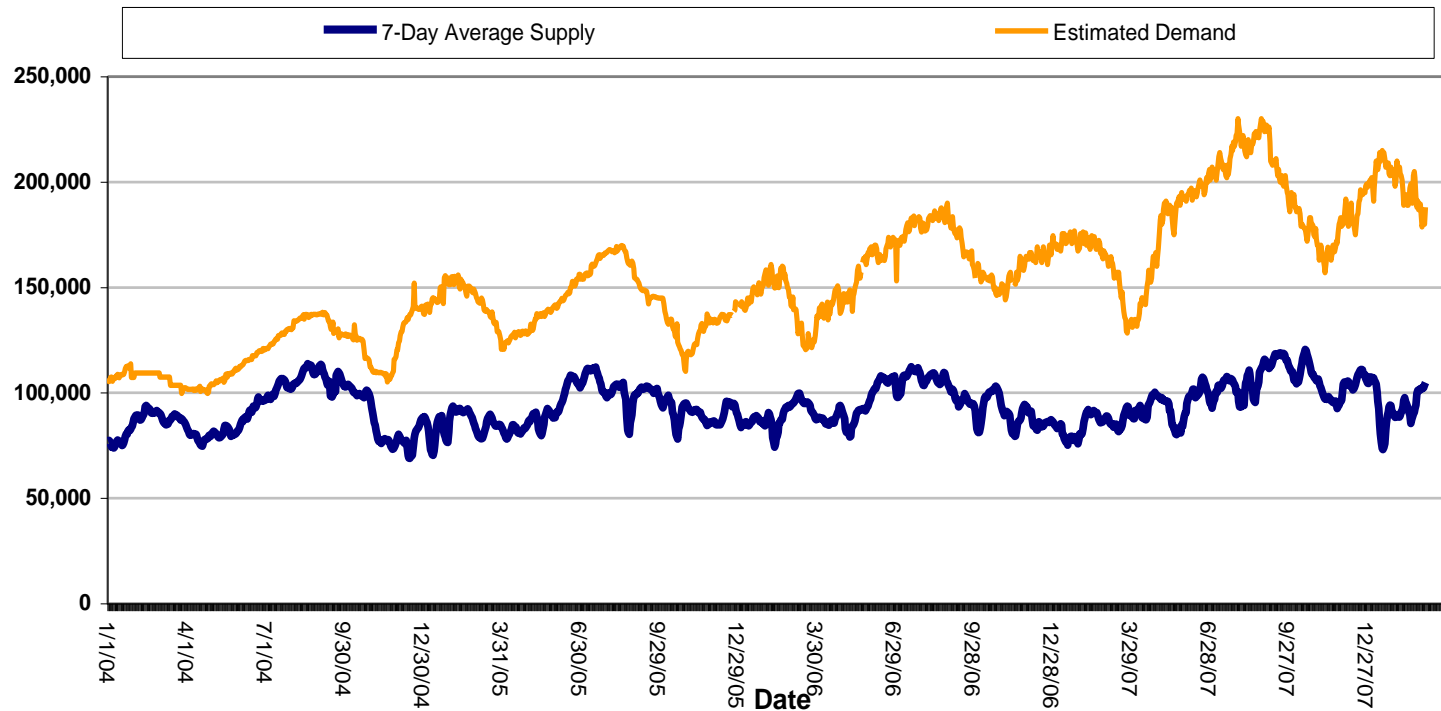
### Assistance for Iraqi Dentists:

- The UAE International Dental Conference and Arab Dental Exhibition will offer training to Iraqi dentists. The conference this month in Dubai and will feature a three-day educational meeting. The meeting will include a two-day hands-on course in implantology and one-day lecture on general surgery. Dr. Mohammed Abedin, organizer of the event, said, “Dental schools are trying to stay operational but the security and social conditions have forced many students to quit. The needs are less financial but more organizational.” Abedin is a regional program manager for FDI World Dental Federation. He went on to say that IMA continues to strive for more education for Iraqi dentists both inside and outside of Iraq.



## ECONOMIC – Electricity

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004

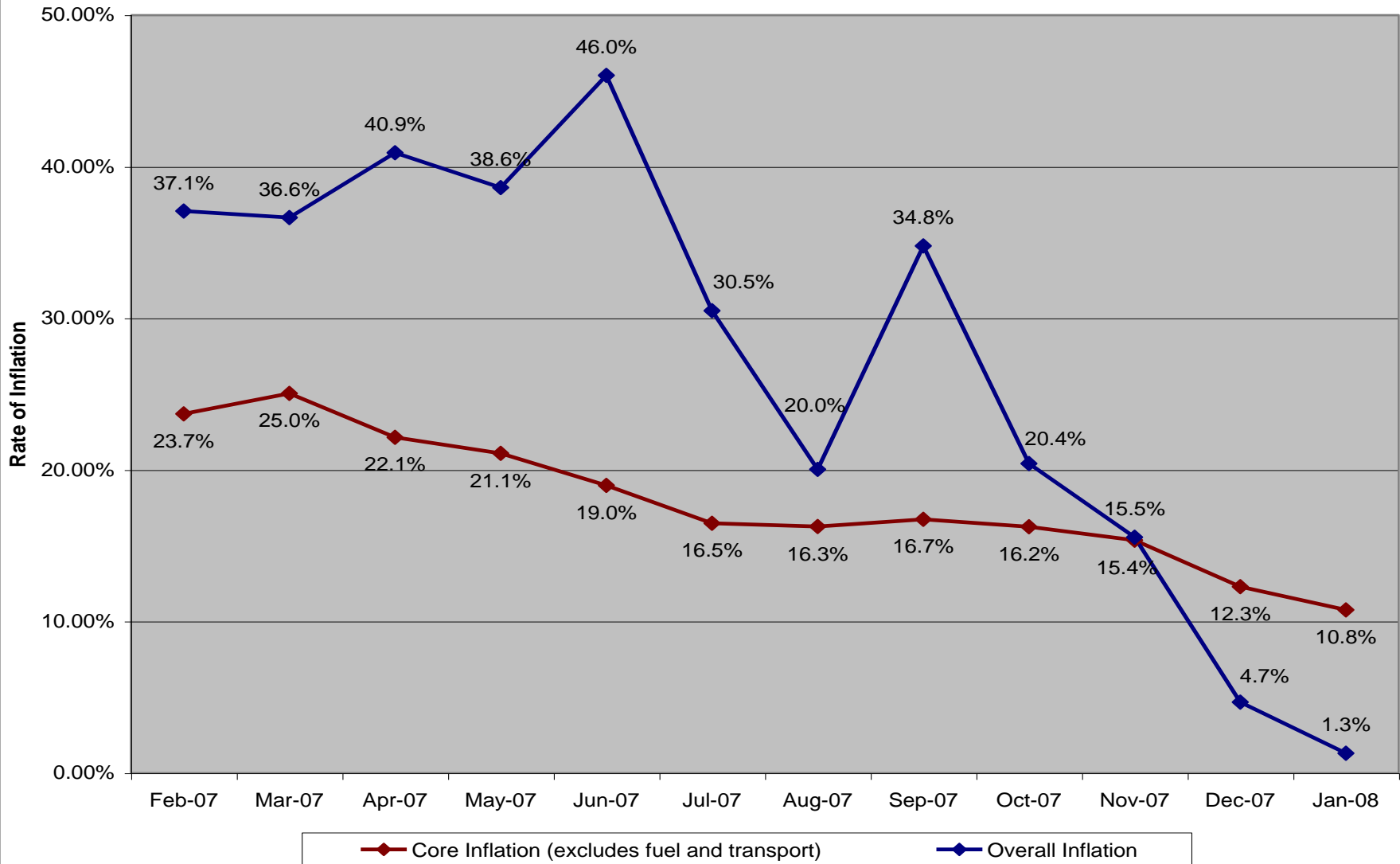


- For February 27-March 4 , daily electricity demand was 13% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 23% above the year-earlier period and met 57% of demand, compared with 53% for the year-earlier period.
- Hours of power after meeting demand from essential services are not available for this week.



# ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

## Year-on-Year Inflation





## ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales</b>				
Price (USD)	\$73.45	\$73.11	\$66.76	\$62.82
Yield	8.61%	8.66%	9.56%	10.16%
<b>Central Bank's USD Currency Auction</b>				
USD Sold	\$49,103,000	\$69,864,000	\$75,237,000	\$66,957,492
NID Exchange Rate	\$1,210	\$1,210	\$1,210	\$1,254.00
<b>Total Employed by USG Programs</b>				
	83,813	83,836	95,609	N/A



# ECONOMIC - Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and 2

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Sector			Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	Allocated	Un-allocated	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law Enforcement	\$4,978	\$27	\$4,960	\$4,960	\$0	\$4,960	\$4,960	\$0	\$4,864	\$4,864	\$0
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	\$2,264	\$38	\$2,253	\$2,253	\$0	\$2,249	\$2,249	\$0	\$2,151	\$2,152	\$0
Electricity Sector	\$4,196	\$29	\$4,070	\$4,068	-\$2	\$4,052	\$4,050	-\$2	\$3,763	\$3,767	\$4
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,723	\$2	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,567	\$1,567	\$0
Water Resources and Sanitation	\$2,067	\$35	\$1,957	\$1,957	\$0	\$1,947	\$1,944	-\$3	\$1,775	\$1,777	\$2
Transportation and Communications	\$462	\$1	\$457	\$456	-\$1	\$451	\$450	-\$1	\$403	\$404	\$1
Roads, Bridges and Construction	\$327	\$6	\$318	\$318	\$0	\$318	\$318	\$0	\$245	\$245	\$0
Health Care	\$812	\$10	\$784	\$783	-\$1	\$776	\$776	\$0	\$720	\$720	\$0
Private Sector Development	\$821	\$2	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$806	\$811	\$6
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	\$436	\$0	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$395	\$395	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	\$213	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,299</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$17,850</b>	<b>\$17,846</b>	<b>-\$4</b>	<b>\$17,803</b>	<b>\$17,797</b>	<b>-\$5</b>	<b>\$16,899</b>	<b>\$16,913</b>	<b>\$14</b>
<b>IRRF II Non-Construction</b>	-	-	\$7,927	\$7,926	-\$1	\$7,906	\$7,906	\$0	\$7,675	\$7,682	\$7
<b>IRRF II Construction</b>	-	-	\$9,403	\$9,401	-\$2	\$9,377	\$9,372	-\$5	\$8,708	\$8,715	\$7
<b>IRRF II Overhead</b>	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$516	\$516	\$0
<b>IRRF I Total</b>	<b>\$2,475</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,232</b>	<b>\$2,232</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Grand Total IRRF I &amp; II</b>	<b>\$20,774</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$20,141</b>	<b>\$20,137</b>	<b>-\$4</b>	<b>\$20,035</b>	<b>\$20,030</b>	<b>-\$5</b>	<b>\$19,038</b>	<b>\$19,052</b>	<b>\$14</b>



## DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

### Talabani to Visit Turkey:

- The office of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani confirmed that the president plans to travel to Turkey within the next few days. The visit follows last week's withdrawal from northern Iraq of Turkish ground forces that were pursuing PKK terrorists based in Iraq's northern mountains. An official with the president's office told the Associated Press that "the president will visit Turkey in the next few days for two or three days."

### Proposal to Increase European Union Involvement in Iraq:

- In a February 29 report, the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs recommended enhancing the European Union's role in Iraq. In particular, it proposed: increasing the size of the European Commission presence in Iraq; stepping up support for UN activities; supporting democratic governance; supporting reconciliation (particularly in Kirkuk and the disputed territories); supporting federal, regional and local institutions (particularly the Council of Representatives); providing assistance to address the plight of refugees; and focusing EU aid on technical assistance and capacity building. The report will be discussed by the European Parliament later this month.



## DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement

### Iranian President's Iraq Visit Ends with Seven MoUs and \$1 Billion Loan:

- During his 2-day visit to Iraq, Iranian President Ahmadinejad told the U.S. and its coalition partners to leave Iraq and the region. Ahmadinejad met with several Iraqi officials during his time in Baghdad and signed 7 Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs), including a \$1 billion loan for work to be awarded to Iranian companies as part of an overall strategy to strengthen ties with its neighbor. The Iranian press touted the visit as the beginning of a new era of cooperation between Iraq and Iran.

### BBC Prepares to Launch New Arabic-language News Channel:

- The BBC's new Arabic-language news channel seeks to cover Arab world events "without fear or favor." Nigel Chapman, BBC World Service Director, reported March 3 that the new channel will seek to set itself apart from other publicly financed broadcasters in the region. BBC Arabic TV is scheduled to begin 12 hour a day broadcasting of news and current events programs to the Middle East and North Africa March 11. By the end of the year, the BBC plans round-the-clock programming. BBC Arabic TV will have an annual budget of \$50 million.



## DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors

### 26 Countries with forces in Iraq (including U.S.)

Albania	Denmark	Korea	Romania
Armenia	El Salvador	Latvia	Singapore
Australia	Estonia	Lithuania	Tonga
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Macedonia	Ukraine
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Japan	Moldova	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Mongolia	
Czech Republic		Poland	

**TOTAL ~ 9,895 Forces**

**32 Countries and NATO\***  
**(including the U.S.)**  
**Support Iraqi Stability Operations**

\*32 includes the U.S., the 25 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey

Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), are not included.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to:  
[NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov](mailto:NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov)



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- The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load.
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